

A B S T R A C T

A METHOD OF ENABLING A USER DEVICE SUCH AS AN AUDIENCE-
RATER TO IDENTIFY A TV CHANNEL SELECTED BY A DIGITAL
5 DECODER OR RECEIVER/DECODER

The method comprises implementing the steps
consisting in: a) taking from within the decoder digital
data forming a channel identifier; b) detecting a change
10 in the selected channel; c) when a change is detected,
producing a digital data message including the new
channel identifier; d) transmitting the message to the
user device; and e) making use of the message within the
user device, in particular for statistical purposes. It
15 is also possible to detect a change in an access
condition to the selected channel, or a change in the
state of the decoder between the active, standby, and off
states, and in step c) to produce an access message
including a corresponding indicator. The message is then
20 associated with a prefix identifying the type of
transition represented by the message, either a change in
state or some other transition. Steps a) to c) can be
implemented by software means internal to the decoder,
and can even be incorporated in the general control
25 software of the decoder or of its access control module,
where appropriate. Step d) can be implemented via a non-
specific access port of the decoder, in particular a
computer serial or parallel port.

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Translation of the title and the abstract as they were when originally filed by the
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